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Gospels and Acts; the remaining books are assigned to his colleague. The questions at issue are fairly stated, and the conclusions reached are in the main traditional, the authority of Harnack being manifest at many points. Of special interest is Mr. Allen's theory of the dates of the Synoptic Gospels. The Second Gospel, he thinks, was originally written at Jerusalem between 44 and 50 A.D. by Mark who himself translated it into Greek at Antioch and perhaps republished it at Rome before or after Peter's residence there. The First Gospel, which is a Greek work from the start, was composed at Antioch about the year 50, while the Third Gospel was written by Luke either during Paul's imprisonment in Caesarea or during his first imprisonment in Rome, when Acts also was written. This theory may conceivably prove to be in part correct, but the evidence adduced for it in the present brief discussion hardly warrants its acceptance.

J. E. FRAME.

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, NEW YORK.

GREAT TEXTS OF THE BIBLE, edited by J. HASTINGS, D.D. John xiii-xxi; pp. vi, 458. James-Jude; pp. vi, 433. 2 vols. Scribner's. \$3.00.

The homiletical treatment of the Bible is perhaps an inevitable evil. It is probably necessary to spoil the Bible by cutting texts out of it and preaching sermons upon them. But the method is only justified when some great word has seemed to the student as he read it suddenly to stand out from the page in letters of burning gold, and has demanded to be proclaimed upon the housetops. The only justification for preaching upon texts is that as the preacher studies, a text suddenly seems to smite him upon the face with an absolutely new meaning, while immediately all the rich experience of his lifetime seems to crystallize around it, and lo! a sermon is formed in his mind. The most immoral book which a preacher could have in his library would be a book which would rob him of this intimate personal experience, the very fire of preaching, and try to show him an easier way. One cannot wear to any advantage second-hand clothes in the pulpit. In order to preach a sincere sermon on a text, one must either have discovered it or re-discovered it himself. It may be that it was natural for somebody, upon reading the first two words of the text, "I am the Way," to record his inner experience in this manner (as given on page 108 of the first of these volumes): "(1) Man's need is satisfied only by a person. (2) Christ supplies man's need of a leader. (3) Christ would not be so great a person if he were not more than man. (4) Every

word in the text is emphatic and remarkable." But how dull a sermon would you and I write upon this ready-made frame! The mistake of a book like this, to which Dr. Hastings has lent his eminent name, is that it tries to make sermonizing easy by dumping into various great texts a hodge-podge of other people's thoughts upon them. The result has none of the personal unity and practical suggestiveness of a volume of real sermons.

We do not deny that these volumes are well done and much above the average of such books, and might aid some preachers in their busy lives to "get a sermon" quickly; but we advise such men far rather to buy a good commentary, or a good life of Christ, or a good book of history, or a few great biographies, and leave these *Great Text* volumes alone. We guarantee that in the reading of the life of one great man or woman the average preacher will receive more help and find more suggestive lines of thought for sermonizing than in the whole twenty volumes of this series.

J. EDGAR PARK.

WEST NEWTON.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE PRESENT IN GERMANY. OSWALD KÜLPE. Tr. from the 5th ed. by Messrs. Patrick. The Macmillan Co. 1913.

This is not a book of importance for scholars. But on account of the inaccessibility of much of the literature with which it deals, it may prove useful as a text-book or for popular reading.

THE MESSAGE OF THE DISCIPLES FOR THE UNION OF THE CHURCH. PETER AINSLIE, Minister of the Christian Temple, Baltimore, Maryland, President of the Commission on Christian Union of the Disciples of Christ (Fleming R. Revell Company, pp. 212. \$1.00), contains three lectures delivered before the Yale Divinity School, on the following subjects:

The Message of the Disciples of Christ;
The Origin of the Disciples of Christ;
The History of the Disciples of Christ;

together with an appendix containing

The last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery, by B. W. Stone;
A Declaration and Address by Thomas Campbell, and a Bibliography.

This book states in a clear and succinct way the teaching of the Disciples of Christ, and the relation which they wish to sustain toward other religious bodies. The writer is a representative Disciple, and while he speaks only for himself, no doubt his book would be accepted by the great majority of his brethren as a very